



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDXA

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 259, January 31, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

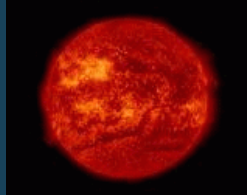
Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

01 Feb 2025 1820 GMT
SFI: 207 SN: 145
A-Index: 8
K-Index: 4
X-Ray: C1.2
304A: 155.5 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 947
Elc Flx: 3500
Aurora: 4/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): 5.8
Solar Wind: 635.1
Geomag Field ACTIVE
Sig Noise Lvl S3-S4
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
Copyright Paul L. Herrman 2023

DX News

5N, NIGERIA. Members of the Rebel DX Group plan to be QRV as **5N9DTG** beginning **February 1st for two weeks**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, FT8, and possibly SSB. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 January 30, 2025] (0131-0214)

6W, SENEGAL. Willy, ON4AVT, signs **6W7/ON4AVT** from **February 2nd to April 10th** from the town Warang. QRV on 80-10m (CW, SSB, FT8) and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, eQSL.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0411)

7P, LESOTHO. Mark, KW4XJ, and his daughter Arina, KO4PZT (13 years old), are active **until mid-2025** as **7P8AB** and **7P8NB**. QSL via [KW4XJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0207)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Georgetown, Guyana from **January 1st to February 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on all bands and via satellite. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct via [PY1SAD](#).

-[425DXN # 1755 December 21, 2024] (1227-0207)

8Q, MALDIVES. Ilian, LZ5KW is QRV as **8Q7KW** for **two weeks**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW with some SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 23, 2025] (0124-0207)

9A, CROATIA. Special callsign **9A2Ø25HWC** marks the 29th edition of the IHF World Men's Handball Championship that is being held right **now until February 2nd**. The special callsign, however, **will be in use until June 30th**. QSOs are uploaded to QRZ Logbook and ClubLog. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

9A, CROATIA. Throughout 2025 Tom, 9A2AA will use **9A68AA** to mark his 68 years of activity on the amateur radio bands. QSL via [9A2AA](#).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0207)

9X, RWANDA. Harold, DF2WO will be active again as **9X2AW** from Rwanda from **January 27th to February 15th**. Usually he operates CW, SSB and FT8/FT4 on 160-6 meters, and via QO-100. QSL via [MØOXO's QQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1760 January 25, 2025] (0124-0214)

A9, BAHRAIN. Special callsign **A975IARU** is for the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society's celebration of the 75th anniversary of IARU Region 1. Activity will begin on **February 6th-10th** and will continue for **five days each month starting on the 6th** until the end of the year. QSL via [EC6DX](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

A9, BAHRAIN. Special callsign **A91ØØIARU** is for the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union. Look for activity for **five days each month during 2025**. QSL via [EC6DX](#).

-[425DXN # 1760 January 25, 2025] (0124-0214)

C2, NAURU. Phill, FK1TS is QRV as **C21TS** and plans to extend his stay on Nauru **until September 2025** with hopeful ventures also on 160m, into SSB operating, and with a projected QSO total goal of 100,000 (currently at 83k). QSL via LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0221)

C5, THE GAMBIA. LBØOG, SP1C, SP1FM and SQ1GU will be active as **C5PL** from the Tanji Bird Reserve (POTA GM-0004), The Gambia from **January 31st to February 7th**. They will operate CW, SSB, FT8 and maybe FT4 on 80-6 meters, with a focus on 20-10 meters. They also plan side trips to the West Kiang Marine Park (POTA GM-0008) as **C5PL/p**, and the Delta du Saloum National Park (POTA SN-0002), Senegal as **6W/homecall/p**. QSL via LoTW and [ClubLog's QQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1760 January 25, 2025] (0131-0207)

C5, THE GAMBIA. Przemo, SP3PS is QRV as **C5SP** **until mid-March**. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [SP3PS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0314)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Mika, OH2FFP is QRV as **OJ1ABOA** from the Finnish Antarctic Station Aboa (AN-016) **until February 12th**. QSL to [OH2FFP](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 January 30, 2025] (0131-0214)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Denney, VU2DGR is QRV with special callsign **AT44I** from the Bharati Research Station at Larsemann Hills to commemorate the 44th Indian Scientific Expedition to the southern

continent. QSL to [VU2DGR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0207)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL will be QRV as **DP1POL** from the German research station Neumayer III, IOTA AN-016, from **January 12th to February 25th**. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes. QSL via [DL1ZBO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0228)

D4, CAPE VERDE. Claudio, HB9OAU will be active holiday style as **D44OA** from Sal Island (AF-086), Cape Verde on **February 5th to 18th**. He will operate SSB and CW on 40-6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded also to ClubLog. QSL via LoTW and eQSL (paper cards will not be provided).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0131-0221)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of January 30, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CE0X	San Felix Islands	13. VK0M	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PY0S	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VP0S	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YV0	Aves Island	19. VK0H	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[K0CF January 31, 2025] (0131-0221)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DA0LH** (special DOK 25ILLW), associated with the lighthouse Laesoe Rende, will be active **throughout 2025**. QSL via [DK5ON](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0124-0214)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DL100DM** celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Deutsches Museum (German Museum) in Munich **during 2025**. QSL via [DL8FA](#).

-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0124-0214)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DL2025C** celebrates Chemnitz as one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025 from **January 18th until March 31st**. In addition, **DL2025B**, **DL2025E**, **DL2025W**, and **DL2025S** will also be active, marking previous German cities similarly honored (Berlin, Essen, Weimar) and the DARC district Saxony, where Chemnitz is located. An award program is also available; see <https://www.2025c.de>. QSL only in various digital forms.

-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0328)

F, FRANCE. Francois, F8DVD will be QRV as **TM22AAW** from Macon on **February 2nd and 3rd, and then between February 8th to 20th** for the 22nd International Antarctic Week. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to [F8DVD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 January 30, 2025] (0131-0221)

HP, PANAMA. Bob, NC6Q, operates as **HP1TT** from **February 1st to 17th** on 40, 20, 15, and 10m on CW and SSB. QSL via [NC6Q](#).

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0221)

I, ITALY. Special callsign **I13MPL** celebrates the 50th anniversary of ARI Merano/Meran (IQ3MP). Look for activity from **February 1st until May 1st**.

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

I, ITALY. Throughout 2025 ARI Fidenza will use a series of special callsigns, each representing one of the many patents registered by Guglielmo Marconi between 1897 and 1926: **I14FPEN** (January), **I14FPUS** (February), **I14SHLD** (March), **I14GHPR** (April), **I14JGGR** (May), **I14RXOS** (June), **I14COHR** (July), **I14LDMA** (August), **I14RADS** (September), **I14WLTX** (October), **I14EACC** (November) and **I14TJTB** (December). Information about the "Marconi - Patented By" award: <http://www.arifidenza.it/>.

QSL via [IQ4FE](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

J5, GUINEA-BISSAU. Livio, IZ3BUR will be active again as **J52EC** from Guinea-Bissau from **January 26th to March 1st**. In his spare time, he will be QRV on 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB and possibly digital modes. QSL direct to [IZ3BUR](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0124-0228)

J7, DOMINICA. Oliver, W6NV, plans to operate as **J79NV** during **February**, with a focus on the ARRL CW contest (February 15th-16th) single op, maybe as **J75A**, and ARRL SSB contest (March 1st-2nd) together with FM5BH (J79BH), F8AAN (J79AN), and F5VHJ (J79AC). QSL for J79NV via [W6NV](#); no info yet for J75A which has been used once before.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0307)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, **JG8NQJ/JD1** is currently QRV from Minami Torishima **until March 1st**. His QSL manager reports that at the end of January Take will QRT on 10 meters and be active on 12 meters instead. Also, sometime in late January to early February he will be able to be QRV on 20 meters. Take operates mainly CW in his spare time. QSL via the bureau to JG8NQJ, or direct to [JA8CJY](#).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0207)

KH9, WAKE I. Allan, KH7AL is active as **KH7AL/KH9** in his spare time while on work assignment on Wake Island (OC-053). "I have a little less than two months to go on this trip until I head home for a month", he says. According to his new website (<https://kh7al.site>), his next activities are scheduled as follows: **February 2nd** at 2000 UTC on 10m SSB; **February 3rd** at 0730 UTC on 12m SSB; **February 17th** at 0730 UTC on 12m CW (QRS, 17 WPM); **February 17th** at 1930 UTC on 10m CW (tentative). Logsearch on ClubLog. QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, or via [KH7AL](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

LA, NORWAY. Special callsign **LA1ØØA** marks the centenary of the first amateur radio contact between Norway and the USA in 1925, when Johannes Diesen, LA1A, and U1YB (Dartmouth College) had a QSO on November 25th of that year. QSL via [LA1ØØA](#), LoTW, qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0124-0214)

LZ, BUGARIA. Special event station **LZ75IPA** will be active **throughout 2025** to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the International Police Association. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or [LZ3HI](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event station **OE25SKI** will be QRV from Saalbach-Hinterglemm, Leogang from **February 4th to 16th** in celebration of the 2025 Ski Championship. Activity will be on 160 meters through 23 centimeters. QSL cards will automatically be sent via the bureau and eQSL.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 January 30, 2025] (0131-0221)

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Xu, BG5DON is QRV as **P29XZ** near Port Moresby while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time, mostly during the weekends, on 20, 17, 15, 10, and 6 meters using FT8 with low power. QSL to [BG5DON](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 23, 2025] (0124-0214)

PJ2, CURACAO. PD1DRE will be active as **PJ2/PD1DRE** from **January 14th to February 4th**. He will operate SSB on 40, 20 and 10 meters. QSL via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0207)

PJ2, CURACAO. Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from **January 12th to April 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW or [W2APF](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0404)

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN. Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as **PJ7/VA3QSL** from Sint Maarten (NA-105) from **January 27th to February 16th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 meters. QSLs via LoTW, or [VA3QSL](#).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0124-0221)

S7, SEYCHELLES. Bruno, VE3BRU will be QRV as **S79/VE3BRU** from Eden Island (AF-024) from **February 4th to 20th**. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 January 30, 2025] (0131-0221)

SU, EGYPT. Vladimir, UA4WHX is QRV as **SU9VB** and has been active on 20, 12, and 10 meters using CW. QSL to [UA4WHX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 23, 2025] (0124-0214)

SV/A, MOUNT ATHOS. The last days saw an activity of **SV1GA/A** from Mount Athos, 50 years after the initial activation, that went off the air amid controversy regarding the legitimacy of the operation. More information is to follow.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0207)

TA, TURKEY. Special callsign **TC8DX** will be active on **February 5th-17th** to honor the memory of Mustafa Asim Ezer (TA8DX), who lost his life in the catastrophic earthquake that struck Turkey on February 6, 2023. Certificate on <https://tadx.org/awards>. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0221)

TJ, CAMEROON. Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as **TJ/TK1CX** until the end of February. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or [EA5ZD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0228)

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as **TY5C** from Godomey until April 2nd. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [F5RAV](#), or via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0404)

TZ, MALI. Ulmar, DK1CE will be active again as **TZ1CE** from Bamako, Mali from **January 28th until February 20th**. Usually, he operates mainly SSB and FT8 on 160-6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW and will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0124-0221)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Tom, KØYA will be active as **V4/KØYA** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **February 6th to March 4th**. He will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15th-16th) as **V47Y**. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0131-0307)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. John, W5JON, returns to St. Kitts (NA-104) and operates as **V47JA** from **January 26th to February 5th** on 160-6m (SSB, FT8). QSL via [W5JON](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0124-0207)

VK, AUSTRALIA. Reminder: under a permanent agreement with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), all Australian radio amateurs may use the alternative **AX** callsign prefix instead of **VK** on Australia Day (**January 26th**), ANZAC Day (**April 25th**) and World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (**May 17th**).

-[425DXN # 1760 January 25, 2025] (0124-0207)

VP2E, ANGUILLA. Watch for Chuck, KG9N, operating as **VP2ECV** from **February 4th to 18th** on HF. QSL via [KG9N](#).

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0221)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS. Tony, KD8RTT will be QRV as **VP5/KD8RTT** from Providenciales Island (NA-002) from **January 28th to February 2nd**. Activity will be on the HF bands using some FT8 and FT4, with a focus on various Satellites. QSL to [KD8RTT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 23, 2025] (0124-0207)

VU, INDIA. Special callsign **AU75BSG** will be used by members of the Rajapalayam International Radio Communicator's Club (VU2IRD) to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Bharat Scouts & Guides. QSL via [VU2JFF](#).

-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0124-0214)

YB, INDONESIA. Emmanuel, F5LIT expects to be active again as **YB9/F5LIT** from Bali Island (OC-022) from **January 28th to February 18th**. He usually operates SSB on 40-10 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or direct to [F5LIT](#).

-[425DXN # 1760 January 25, 2025] (0124-0221)

YB, INDONESIA. Jozef, ON6HX is guest operating as **YB9/ON6HX** from Lombok Island (OC-150) **until February 6th**. QSL via [ON6HX](#), LoTW, and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

ZD7, ST. HELENA. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be QRV as **ZD7DPX** from **January 21st to February 3rd**.

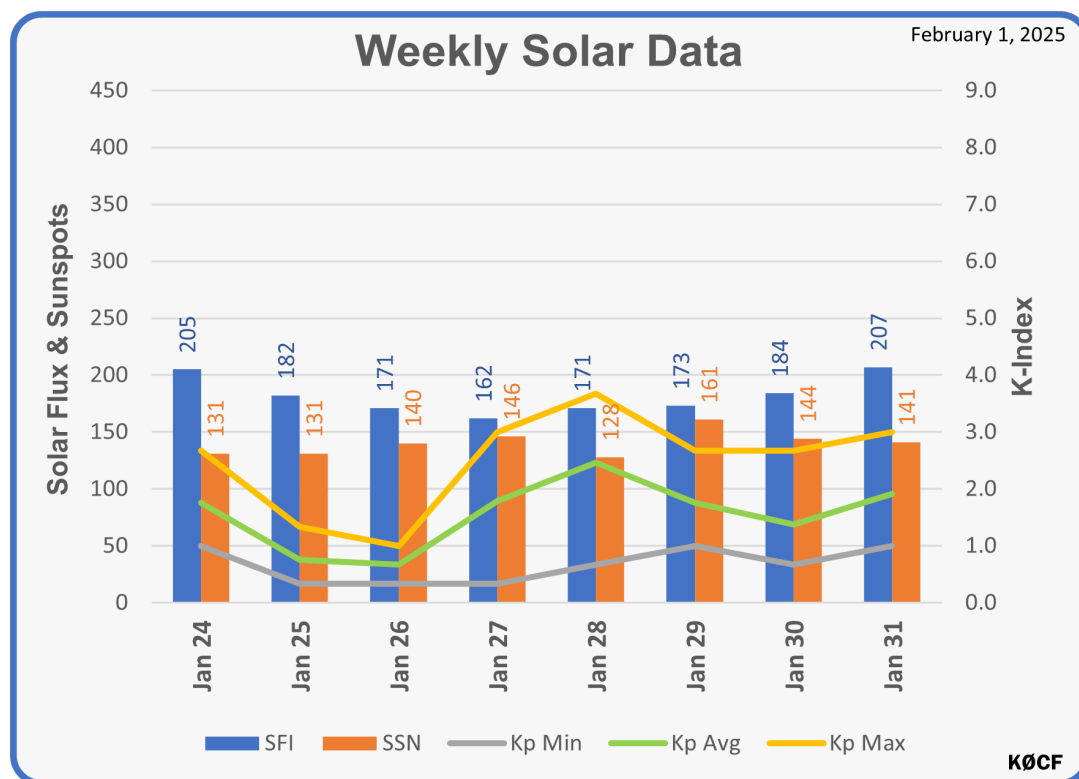
Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0207)

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Special event stations **ZS100SARL**, **ZS6SRL**, and **ZS9HQ** are QRV **during all of 2025** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Relay League. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 23, 2025] (0124-0214)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

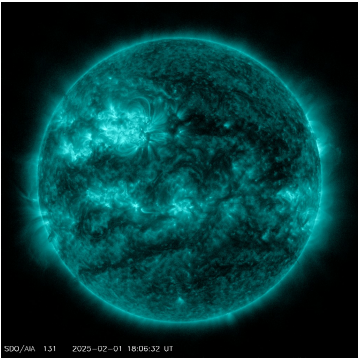
The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to

enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, January 24th through yesterday, January 31st.

The average solar flux was 179, down 42 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 207 on Friday, January 31st, following a low of 162 on January 27th.

The average sunspot count was 142, down by 38 from last week, peaking at 161 on Wednesday, January 29th after a weekly low of 128 on January 28th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.5 with a maximum of 3.7 on Tuesday, January 28th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.0 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since January 25th has been low with 5 major flares, the largest of which was an M 6.7 event on Friday, January 31st.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, January 25th through 1440 UTC, February 1st.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 01	1319	M 2.4
2	Jan 31	2023	M 1.8
3	Jan 31	1406	M 6.7
4	Jan 28	1945	M 1.7
5	Jan 27	0812	M 2.6

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Feb 1	55%	15%	210
Feb 2	60%	15%	215
Feb 3	60%	15%	220

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on January 27, 2025).

Date	Flux	Kp
------	------	----

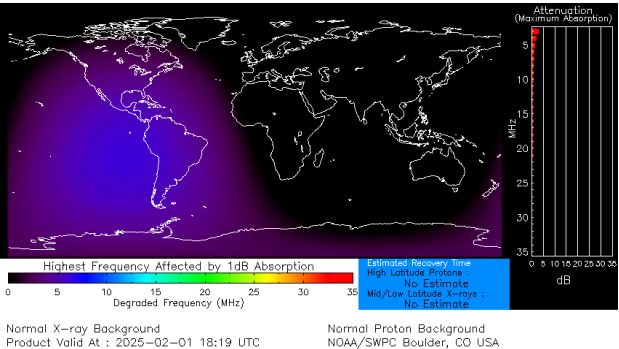
Date	Flux	Kp
------	------	----

Date	Flux	Kp
------	------	----

Feb 1	145	3	Feb 5	165	4	Feb 9	145	3
Feb 2	150	5	Feb 6	160	3	Feb 10	140	4
Feb 3	165	4	Feb 7	155	2	Feb 11	140	5
Feb 4	160	4	Feb 8	150	2	Feb 12	140	4

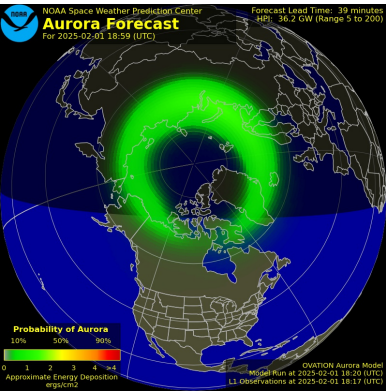
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.
Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Almost-X Class Solar Flare (Updated)

Giant sunspot AR3976 unleashed [an M6.7-class solar flare](#) yesterday (Jan 31st @ 1406 UTC), almost reaching [category X](#). The explosion caused a brief shortwave radio blackout over South America, and hurled a CME into space. New SOHO coronagraph images suggest that the CME will miss Earth by a narrow margin on Feb. 3rd.
(Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](#) February 1, 2025. Republished by permission.)

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 1	0000Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 1	0001Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 1	1200Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 1	1400Z	Feb 1	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 1	1600Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 2	0000Z	Feb 2	0359Z	Rules
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 8	0000Z	Feb 9	2400Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 10	1300Z	Feb 14	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Feb 15	0000Z	Feb 16	2400Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 21	2200Z	Feb 23	2159Z	Rules
South Carolina QSO Party	Feb 22	1500Z	Feb 23	0159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 22	1800Z	Feb 23	0600Z	Rules
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 23	1500Z	Feb 24	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 1	0000Z	Mar 2	2400Z	Rules
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 1	1800Z	Mar 2	1359Z	Rules
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 8	0000Z	Mar 8	2359Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 8	1400Z	Mar 9	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 8	1500Z	Mar 9	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 8	1900Z	Mar 9	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9	1800Z	Mar 10	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15	1200Z	Mar 16	1200Z	Rules
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 15	1400Z	Mar 16	2400Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 23	0000Z	Mar 23	0400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 29	0000Z	Mar 30	2400Z	Rules
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 5	1400Z	Apr 6	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 5	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 12	0700Z	Apr 13	1300Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 12	1400Z	Apr 13	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 12	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 18	2100Z	Apr 19	2100Z	Rules
YU DX Contest	Apr 19	0700Z	Apr 20	0659Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 19	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	Rules
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 20	1200Z	Apr 20	2200Z	Rules
Florida QSO Party	Apr 26	1600Z	Apr 27	2159Z	Rules

7th Call Area QSO Party	May 3	1300Z	May 4	0700Z	Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 3	1600Z	May 4	0400Z	Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 3	1700Z	May 4	2359Z	Rules
New England QSO Party	May 3	2000Z	May 4	2400Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]